

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, MORNING AUGUST 1, 1977
NO. 1
NEWSPAPERS

NEW YORK TIMES -- BERNIE GWERTZMAN FROM WASHINGTON

LEAD: "PRESIDENT SADAT GAVE A BOOST TO THE PROSPECTS FOR
SECSTATE VANCE'S MIDEAST MISSION TODAY WHEN HE SAID HE WAS
OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RECONVENING A PEACE CONFERENCE AND THAT
THERE WERE 'ALTERNATIVES' TO HAVING THE PLO AT THE GENEVA
NEGOTIATING TABLE."

OTHER POINTS:

-- SADAT, SPEAKING IN A INTERVIEW FOR "ISSUES AND ANSWERS",
DECLINED TO SPECIFY WHAT ALTERNATIVES HE WAS CONSIDERING,
AND REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO ANY STATEMENT WHICH APPEARED
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TO REJECT THE IDEA OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE STRESSED
THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PEACE
PROCESS.

-- REMARKS SEEMED TO SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WHO
HAD SAID THAT EGYPT, AT LEAST, WANTS A GENEVA CONFERENCE
SO MUCH THAT IT WILL NOT LET PREVIOUS POSITIONS SUPPORTING

THE PLO STAND IN THE WAY.

-- SEEMED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE NEED FOR THE PLO TO BE REPRESENTED AT GENEVA AND ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE FORMATION OF A FINAL PEACE.

-- SAID US DECISION TO SELL EGYPT C-130S WAS A START, BUT COULD NOT COMPARE WITH "LAVISH" AID GIVEN ISRAEL.

CSM -- DAN SOUTHERLAND FROM WASHINGTON

LEAD: "TOUGHEST ISSUE FACING SECSTATE VANCE AS HE BEGINS HIS MIDEAST PEACE MISSION IS LIKELY TO BE FUTURE OF CONTESTED ISRAELI-OCCUPIED WEST BANK."

OTHER POINTS:

-- US HAS COME OUT IN FAVOR OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, WITH ONLY "MINOR" BORDER ADJUSTMENTS; BEGIN HAS PUBLICLY SPOKEN OUT AGAINST SUCH A WITHDRAWAL.

-- IT APPEARED EARLIER THAT VANCE MISSION WOULD CONCENTRATE ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS -- TOUGHEST OF WHICH IS PLO REPRESENTATION -- BUT HE ANNOUNCED FRIDAY THAT HE WOULD CARRY WITH HIM PROPOSALS ON SUBSTANCE AS WELL.

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-- ASSAD WILL BE TOUGHEST NUT ON ARAB SIDE, BUT EVEN HE HAS GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO APPEAR FLEXIBLE IN RECENT WEEKS.

WSJ -- BOB KEATLEY COLUMN ON ED PAGE

COLUMN DESCRIBES DIFFICULTIES FACED BY SECSTATE ON TRIP, WHICH IS "THE TOUGHEST KIND OF SALES SWING, A MIDEAST MISSION TO PERSUADE HIGHLY SKEPTICAL ARABS THAT NEW PEACE TALKS WITH ISRAEL WOULD BE WORTHWHILE. AFTER THE RECENT VISIT HERE OF PM BEGIN, MR. VANCE MAY NOT HAVE MUCH TO SAY THAT ARAB LEADERS WANT TO HEAR. AND THE ARABS APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE TO OFFER THAT MR. VANCE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE TO SWAY THE ISRAELIS."

AIM OF TRIP IS TO GET GENEVA CONFERENCE STARTED, AT WHICH AGREEMENTS COULD BE REACHED WHICH WOULD REMOVE THE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK TO PEACE, THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

COLUMN DESCRIBES SITUATION IN DETAIL, AND OUTLINES POSITIONS OF MAJOR ACTORS ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

CONCLUSION: "THERE WAS A TIME, NOT MANY MONTHS AGO, WHEN US OFFICIALS ARGUED THAT A GENEVA CONFERENCE SHOULD BE RECONVENED ONLY WHEN A CLEAR NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK AND A SPECIFIC AGENDA WERE SETTLED IN ADVANCE. SUCH AMBITIONS HAVE BEEN ABANDONED. NOW WASHINGTON THINKS ANY CONFERENCE IS BETTER THAN NONE AT ALL. AT MINIMUM IT WOULD DELAY WAR, AND MIGHT ENTRAP THE PARTIES INTO LONGRUNNING NEGOTIATIONS.

"SO THE CURRENT VANCE TRIP IS MORE A SCRAMBLE TO ORGANIZE THE FORM OF A CONFERENCE RATHER THAN TO DRAFT AN AGENDA, THOUGH MR. VANCE SAYS HE HAS SOME POLITICAL 'SUGGESTIONS' ABOUT FINAL TREATY TERMS. THE MAIN THING WORKING IN MR. UNCLASSIFIED

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VANCE'S FAVOR IS THAT ALL MIDEAST GOVERNMENTS, FOR VARYING REASONS, WOULD RATHER TALK THAN FIGHT FOR NOW. SO CHANCES OF HURDLING THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, IF ONLY PROCEDURALLY, DO EXIST. THIS MAKES IT A WORTHWHILE EXERCISE, BUT IT IS HARDLY WHAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HOPED TO ACCOMPLISH BY THIS DATE."

WIRE SERVICES

WIRE COVERAGE ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR CURTAIN-RAISERS. POSITIONS OF PARTIES OUTLINED, PALESTINAIN ISSUE DESCRIBED AS MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK.

SCHWEID STORY OBSERVES THAT VANCE IS GUARDED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS, AND IS ALREADY PLANNING MEETINGS AT UNGA; ADDS THAT CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES SAY THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT RULED OUT YET ANOTHER VANCE MIDEAST TRIP.

NETWORKS

CBS -- BERNIE KALB FROM ANDREWS

"VIEWS OF ARABS AND ISRAELIS SO FAR APRT THAT SOME ANALYSTS SUGGESTING THAT VANCE IS EMBARKING ON A MISSION IMPOSSIBLE. BUT THE RISKS OF NOT TRYING, THE RISK OF ANOTHER ARAB-ISRAELI WAR, THE RISK OF ANOTHER ARAB OIL EMBARGO... ARE SO GREAT THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE..."

QUOTES SECSTATE'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT, CONCLUDES: "EVEN IF VANCE IS SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING ABOUT A GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT GENEVA WILL PRODUCE PEACE. BUT IT WOULD BE A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH....AS KISSINGER USED TO SAY, 'EACH SUCCESS ONLY BUYS AN ADMISSION TICKET UNCLASSIFIED

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TO EVEN MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS."

NBC -- RICHARD VALERIANI FROM ANDREWS

REPORTS PRIMARY GOAL OF VANCE MISSION IS TO CONVENE GENEVA CONFERENCE; SAYS SECSTATE IS TAKING A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC AMERICAN PROPOSALS.

QUOTES DEPARTURE STATEMENT.

SAYS IF AGREEMENT NOT REACHED ON THIS TRIP, VANCE WILL TRY AGAIN IN CONVERSATIONS WITH LEADERS AT UNGA.

ABC -- BARRIE DUNSMORE

SAYS VANCE GOAL IS TO GET GENEVA CONFERENCE STARTED, AND MAIN PROBLEM IS PALESTINIAN QUESTION. OUTLINES POSITIONS OF PARTIES ON QUESTION; NOTES MOST PARTIES HAVE INTEREST IN GETTING PROBLEM RESOLVED; SAYS SYRIAN ATTITUDE IS BIGGEST QUESTION. IF NO AGREEMENT REACHED ON THIS TRIP, CONVERSATIONS WILL CONTINUE AT UNGA.

CBS MORN;NG NEWS ALSO CARRIED REPORT ON SADAT INTERVIEW. TEXT FOLLOWS:

JOHN SHEAHAN: "THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WILL EVENTUALLY COME DOWN TO ONE QUESTION: HOW MUCH UNCLE SAM IS WILLING TO PAY IN HARD CASH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE PALESTINIANS WANT BILLIONS IN COMPENSATION, AND EGYPT WANTS MONEY, TOO. FOR LOST REVENUES FROM THE SUEZ CANAL, FOR DAMAGE TO THE CANAL CITIES, AND \$2.1 BILLION FOR OIL ISRAEL PUMPED OUT OF THE OCCUPIED SINAI.

(SHEAHAN ASKS SADAT) WHO'S SUPPOSED TO PAY THAT?

SADAT: ISRAEL.

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SHEAHAN: BUT YOU'VE ALREADY TOLD ME THAT ISRAEL'S ECONOMY IS IN WORSE SHAPE THAN YOURS.

SADAT: WELL, THEY ARE IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION, BECAUSE THEY RECEIVE THE DEFICIT OF THEIR BUDGET FROM YOU, THROUGH THE SPECIAL RELATIONS...LET THESE SPECIAL RELATIONS ALSO

HAVE ITS REPERCUSSION ON THIS ISSUE.

SHEAHAN: SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT JOHN Q. TAXPAYER IN THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PAY THE COMPENSATION TO...

SADAT: WELL, YOU HAVE CHOSEN YOUR SPECIAL RELATIONS WITH THEM. AND THEY HAVE NO OBJECTION FOR IT. WELL, THEY MUST PAY ME. AND IT WILL BE A DEFICIT IN THEIR BUDGET YOU SHALL BE PROVIDING.

SHEAHAN (IN STUDIO): SO, IF SECRETARY VANCE CAN PUSH THE ARABS AND ISRAELIS TOWARD GENEVA, THEY WILL NEGOTIATE WITH EACH OTHER. AND THEN THERE WILL BE NEGOTIATIONS: WITH THE UNITED STATES, WHEN THE ARABS PRESENT THEIR BILL."

CHRISTOPHER

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